



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RALEIGH 27611

JAMES B. HUNT, JR.
GOVERNOR

September 27, 1977

Dear Professor Lederburg:

I am deeply interested in improving the quality of science and mathematics instruction in our State, and I am examining several conventional ways to do so. Also, and of much personal interest to me, I am considering recommending a new State school (a residential high school of science and mathematics), located on a campus of its own, with dormitories, excellent laboratories and equipment, classrooms, and other facilities. Above all the school would entail a commitment to excellence. We would expect rigorous adherence to high standards of performance.

I am writing you and several other scientists to ask if such a school is needed.

As we are discussing the School here--and these are private conversations involving only a few people--the school might hope to have 600 to 1500 students, both girls and boys. It would be a State school, but would be open to students from other states. Perhaps half would come from our State and for those the school would be free of tuition. There would be four grades: the 9th through 12th. The curriculum would require the customary range of high school courses, but would have more extensive offerings in science and mathematics, with work scheduled over a longer school day than is customary in a non-residential school.

The personality of the School, what it is to emphasize, what it is to require, how professional it should seek to make its young students, are other matters being discussed. We wish to design a curriculum and develop teaching methods that, because of their quality and innovative character, high schools within our regular public education system will seek to emulate. The governing body for the school, however, would be sufficiently removed from our prevailing system to insure freedom to innovate.

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We have no commitment in our thinking as to where in North Carolina such a school should be located. Several possible places suggest themselves, and a full study would be needed to find out which would offer the most cooperation from its scientific community. We suspect the faculty for a high school will not attract top scientists, and we will need to share appointments with other institutions, and quite possibly with industry.

I know you receive many requests for your time and ideas. Please be certain that I will be grateful for any advice you give us. My need of the moment is to know if the plan emerging, as described in this letter, appears to have merit. Beyond that, I would welcome any advice you have for us, or to know of any models you might suggest in this or other countries.

My warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Joshua Lederberg, is written over the word "Sincerely,". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Professor Joshua Lederberg
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